cheap raw-material resources.

Subsidy on Fertilizer

†4256. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount allocated as subsidy on fertilizers during the last few years has been more than the amount allocated in the annual budget;

(b) if so, the said amounts during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as the amount of actual subsidy was more than the allocated amount, fertilizer producers could not be paid in time; and

(d) if so, when this arrear had been paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (d) Figures for revised Budget Estimate and actual expenditure on subsidy on urea under Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme are given below :

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Revised budget estimate	Actual expenditure
1997-98	7394.00	7321.96
1998-99	7711.00	7597.22
1999-2000	8750.00	8744.07

There were carry forward amounts of Rs. 508 crore in 1997-98 and Rs. 964.32 crore in 1998-99 which were paid during next respective financial year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

There has been no carry forward liability of 1999-2000.

Sick FCI Units

†4257. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

DR. D. MASTHAN :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether several production units under Fertilizer Corporation of India are lying closed;

(b) if so, the total number of units and their names where production was discontinued by December, 1999;

(c) the reasons for discontinuing the production; and

(d) the established production capacity of these units and the average percentage of their production capacity utilised by these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Production is suspended in FCI units of Ramagundam, Talcher and Gorakhpur.

(c) The high cost of production and incremental operational losses in the event of continuing production are some of the reasons for suspending production in these plants.

(d) The capacity utilisation of these urea plants during the last five years of their operation is given below :—

Unit	Annual Production Capacity (in lakh MT)	Average capacity utilisation (%) over last 5 years of operations
Gorakhpur	2.85 (Installed)	59% (1985-86 to 1989-90)
Ramagundam	4.95 (Installed)	18%
	3.30 (Derated)	27% (1994-95 to 1998-99)
Talcher	4.95 (Installed)	20%
	3.30 (Derated)	30% (1994-95 to 1998-99)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.